

The Urban District Council
OF
MARKET RASEN. *Li*

REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1906.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present the Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Urban District for the year 1906.

Statistical tables are appended, giving tabular statements of Births and Deaths for the year, and of Infectious Diseases notified.

The Population I estimate at 2204.

The number of Births registered was 49, which gives a Birth Rate of 22.2 per 1000.

The Deaths numbered 33, giving an average of 14.9 per 1000.

There were five deaths of Infants under one year, which gives an Infantile Death Rate of 102.04 per 1000 births. The principal cause of death in children under one year of age is, in a great many cases, due to the ignorance of the mother as to—

1. The best nourishment for a baby in the event of the mother not being able to suckle it. Cow's milk mixed with barley water, and a little cream and sugar added to it, is, when given warm, one of the best substitutes. All patent foods, when given without milk, are absolutely harmful.
2. The necessity for the most scrupulous cleanliness of the child, and of everything that comes in contact with it; and special attention should be paid to the feeding bottle (this should on no account have any rubber tubing attached to it, owing to the difficulty in properly cleaning it; the rubber teat should fasten on to the bottle itself), and to the preparation of the food.
3. The necessity of fresh air, a close stuffy atmosphere being very injurious to young children.

There were four deaths from Infectious Diseases, all of which were due to Diphtheria.

The rate per 1000 of deaths from Tuberculous Diseases was 60·6. This is just half what it was for 1905.

The District, during the early part of the year, was practically free from diseases of an infectious nature. During the last four months there was a big epidemic of Measles, a very large proportion of the children in the District being affected. On August 6th a case of Diphtheria was notified to me, since when eleven other cases have been brought to my notice. Of these four have died, which gives a death rate of 333·3 per 1000 cases.

In one family the father and two of the children were infected, and the latter having died shortly after taking the disease, I suggested that, as there were other children in the family, and owing to the fact that the house in which they were living in was in the middle of the town, and in close proximity to a bakehouse, the surviving members of the family should, for the safety of the District, be removed at once to the Isolation Hospital. This was, after some considerable delay on the part of the Isolation Hospital Authorities, carried out. With regard to the admission into the Isolation Hospital of Patients suffering with Diphtheria (more particularly when of a violent type), I am in a position to state that the Medical Officer of Health to the Rural District Council has decided not to admit cases of Diphtheria into the Isolation Hospital. My comment on this action is, that as the Ratepayers of Market Rasen have to subscribe towards the maintenance of the Hospital, they should be in a position to benefit by it, by, in the first place when necessary and in their own interests, being treated there; also from the fact that by the early isolation of any very severe type of the disease in any particular Patient, the District would most undeniably be benefitted by this action. If a violent case of Diphtheria, occurring in a populous part of the District, is not in the interests of that District a suitable case for removal to the Isolation Hospital, I have yet to learn what is.

I would advise the Council that, in the event of Infectious Diseases of any serious nature occurring in their District, they should have the main drains flushed much more frequently than they do; once a month being, in my opinion, not nearly often enough.

The Water supplied to your District is of an excellent quality.

The Main Drainage of the town is on the whole satisfactory; the arrangements for the houses not connected with it are in my opinion not satisfactory. Frequently I have had complaints made to me by residents that, after having asked that the closets might be emptied, a period of anything up to fourteen days has elapsed before this has been carried out. Having inspected the condition of affairs, I am in a position to state that the conditions were not at all Sanitary, and very injurious to the people who reside in the neighbourhood. The closets should be emptied as soon as possible after a request has been made for that purpose.

I have not found it necessary to take any action under the Factory and Workshops Act.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I would bring before your notice the fact that the Salary of Ten Guineas per annum for the Office of Medical Officer of Health is, after deducting the Income Tax, the same as that for the Office of Inspector of Nuisances. If you will kindly consider the amount of study, and the cost of which, that must be devoted to the education of a Medical Man before he is allowed to occupy such an important post as that of a Medical Officer of Health, I trust that you will advise an increase of the salary for the office I have the honour to hold,

Yours faithfully,

FRANCIS W. JACKSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

